

Assembly Bill No. 268

CHAPTER 216

An act to amend Sections 802.1, 802.5, 803, 803.5, and 803.6 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

[Approved by Governor September 6, 2005. Filed with
Secretary of State September 6, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 268, Matthews. Unprofessional conduct.

Existing law requires reporting by a physician and surgeon and various other persons, including a coroner, clerk of court, prosecutor, and professional liability insurer, to the Medical Board of California or the California Board of Podiatric Medicine relative to criminal indictments, criminal convictions, negligence, patient deaths, and other matters concerning a physician and surgeon or podiatrist.

This bill would instead require reporting to the Osteopathic Medical Board of California with respect to licensees of that board.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 802.1 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

802.1. (a) A physician and surgeon shall report any of the following to the Medical Board of California or the Osteopathic Medical Board of California in writing within 30 days:

(1) The bringing of an indictment or information charging a felony against the physician and surgeon.

(2) The conviction of the physician and surgeon, including any verdict of guilty, or plea of guilty or no contest, of any felony.

(b) Failure to make a report required by this section shall be a public offense punishable by a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

SEC. 2. Section 802.5 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

802.5. (a) When a coroner receives information that is based on findings that were reached by, or documented and approved by a board-certified or board-eligible pathologist indicating that a death may be the result of a physician's or podiatrist's gross negligence or incompetence, a report shall be filed with the Medical Board of California, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, or the California Board of Podiatric Medicine. The initial report shall include the name of the decedent, date and place of death, attending physicians or podiatrists, and all other relevant information available. The initial report shall be

followed, within 90 days, by copies of the coroner's report, autopsy protocol, and all other relevant information.

(b) The report required by this section shall be confidential. No coroner, physician and surgeon, or medical examiner, nor any authorized agent, shall be liable for damages in any civil action as a result of his or her acting in compliance with this section. No board-certified or board-eligible pathologist, nor any authorized agent, shall be liable for damages in any civil action as a result of his or her providing information under subdivision (a).

SEC. 3. Section 803 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

803. (a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), within 10 days after a judgment by a court of this state that a person who holds a license, certificate, or other similar authority from the Board of Behavioral Science Examiners or from an agency mentioned in subdivision (a) of Section 800 (except a person licensed pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 1200)) has committed a crime, or is liable for any death or personal injury resulting in a judgment for an amount in excess of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) caused by his or her negligence, error or omission in practice, or his or her rendering unauthorized professional services, the clerk of the court that rendered the judgment shall report that fact to the agency that issued the license, certificate, or other similar authority.

(2) For purposes of a physician and surgeon who has committed a crime, or is liable for any death or personal injury resulting in a judgment of any amount caused by his or her negligence, error or omission in practice, or his or her rendering unauthorized professional services, the clerk of the court that rendered the judgment shall report that fact to the agency that issued the license.

(b) Every insurer providing professional liability insurance to a physician and surgeon licensed pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2000) shall send a complete report including the name and license number of the physician and surgeon to the Medical Board of California or the Osteopathic Medical Board of California as to any judgment of a claim for damages for death or personal injury caused by that licensee's negligence, error, or omission in practice, or rendering of unauthorized professional services. The report shall be sent within 30 calendar days after entry of judgment.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Medical Board of California, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, and the California Board of Podiatric Medicine shall disclose to an inquiring member of the public information received pursuant to subdivision (a) regarding felony convictions of, and judgments against, a physician and surgeon or doctor of podiatric medicine. The Division of Medical Quality, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, and the California Board of Podiatric Medicine may formulate appropriate disclaimers or explanatory statements to be included with any information released, and may, by regulation, establish categories of information that need not be disclosed to

the public because that information is unreliable or not sufficiently related to the licensee's professional practice.

SEC. 4. Section 803.5 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

803.5. (a) The district attorney, city attorney, or other prosecuting agency shall notify the Medical Board of California, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, the California Board of Podiatric Medicine, the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, or other appropriate allied health board, and the clerk of the court in which the charges have been filed, of any filings against a licensee of that board charging a felony immediately upon obtaining information that the defendant is a licensee of the board. The notice shall identify the licensee and describe the crimes charged and the facts alleged. The prosecuting agency shall also notify the clerk of the court in which the action is pending that the defendant is a licensee, and the clerk shall record prominently in the file that the defendant holds a license from one of the boards described above.

(b) The clerk of the court in which a licensee of one of the boards is convicted of a crime shall, within 48 hours after the conviction, transmit a certified copy of the record of conviction to the applicable board. Where the licensee is regulated by an allied health board, the record of conviction shall be transmitted to that allied health board and the Medical Board of California.

SEC. 5. Section 803.6 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

803.6. (a) The clerk of the court shall transmit any felony preliminary hearing transcript concerning a defendant licensee to the Medical Board of California, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, the California Board of Podiatric Medicine, or other appropriate allied health board, as applicable, where the total length of the transcript is under 800 pages and shall notify the appropriate board of any proceeding where the transcript exceeds that length.

(b) In any case where a probation report on a licensee is prepared for a court pursuant to Section 1203 of the Penal Code, a copy of that report shall be transmitted by the probation officer to the board.